

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

COMMUNION



*"Spiritually Alive, Joyfully
Inclusive, Committed to
Justice."*

Sunday Morning

February 11

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
Handbell Choir

February 18

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Ken Pennings preaching
ORUCC Choir

February 25

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Winton Boyd preaching
ORUCC Choir

March 4

9 am Java & Jesus

10 am Tammy Martens preaching
ORUCC Choir

Newsletters:

February 20 and

March 6 & 19

Articles due the Monday before

Information to be included in the newsletter is due the Monday before the above dates by 9:00 a.m. Email items to office@orucc.org, or drop them off at the office.

Church Emails

Debbie Bauerkemper
office@orucc.org
Tammy Martens
tmartens@orucc.org
Ken Pennings
ken@orucc.org
Winton Boyd
winton@orucc.org

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday

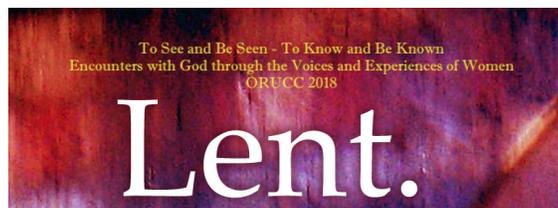
5:30 p.m. – An open Labyrinth Walk.

We have an labyrinth in the carpet of our Friendship Hall. It will be open for walking meditation and prayer from 5:30-6:45. There will be volunteers welcoming you and offering any guidance you might need.

7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service

We share this service with Madison Mennonite Church. It includes the imposition of ashes to remind us of our humanity and the celebration of communion to remind us of God's grace in our lives. All ages are welcome.

- We have decided to take a year off from our annual Partygras Celebration. There will be NO Partygras this year.



In a time in our culture when we in the progressive church are trying to celebrate and honor the experiences and voices of women, we have decided to focus on the what it means to encounter the Divine in our lives, in the lives of others and in the movements of the world. Through music, word, symbol and images we will hear from, listen to, learn from and cherish the way women historically and in our midst are teaching us about our faith.

In worship we will encounter stories of Jesus and women. At times, we'll rewrite the text for emphasis. We'll also listen to women from the congregation reflect on their lives. We'll respond with creative readings and good music given to us by women. Our series has been organized by a group of women from the congregation who cherish the way the Divine Feminine and the Father God work in all of our lives. Our website has the full schedule of themes and preaching.

The Christ in Me Greets the Christ in You: We've created a **devotional of short prayers and photos** designed to illuminate the ancient faith greeting, "The Christ in Me Greets the Christ in You." A small group of us created 40 ways praying and living with that ancient mantra that we hope will be life-giving. This will be available in church beginning February 11. We will also post the daily offerings online on the church Facebook Page.



From Winton Boyd:

Those of you that attended the Annual Meeting of our congregation on February 4 heard me read this letter.

At the New Member reception a couple weeks ago, I talked about what I call the "DNA" of this congregation. Since our founding, we've been a creative, experimental, open hearted, passionate, roll-up-the-sleeves, neighbor loving community. As one of your pastors, I stepped into this pool of grace, beauty, activism and love and have enjoyed nearly a generation of contributing to its unique progressive Christian expression in Madison. The Spirit we all feel, this DNA, long preceded you and me, and will continue on into new generations and new expressions of ministry after we are gone. At the end of 2018 I will be stepping down as your Senior Pastor, and stepping out to pursue other opportunities and ministries. In the parlance of my Executive Coach sister, I will begin to explore what "Act 2" looks for me, and the life Tammy and I share, as I complete 20 years here and as I turn 60 years old.

I love being one of your pastors, and I always have. I love our shared ministry and our sense of passion, joy and care for each other and the world. My children, as well as Tammy and I, have been deeply shaped and powerfully loved by this community. Nothing will ever weave itself into our very beings as you have.

I'm not stepping away because I have fallen out of love with you, but rather because the grace of these years together gives me the confidence to look creatively at my final years of ministry and service. I don't have firm work plans for the future. Some of my time in the future will be devoted to more retreat work with the Center for Courage and Renewal, and some of it is still being defined. As I step into that uncertainty, I hope to do so with the same passion and care that you've so bravely modeled for me.

I've wrestled with when to share this news, but realize there is never a good time. I'm excited about so many of our ministries, and I want, in my remaining months, to do all I can to ensure their stability and longevity.

There are many aspects to this decision that will immediately raise questions. I will leave most of those for another day. I will say that in the past month, I recently began conversations with our leaders and my colleagues Ken and Tammy about this decision. Associate Conference Minister JoAnne Thomsen will be joining the Leadership Team at it's meeting on February 20 to discuss next steps and the UCC search process. She will be a gifted guide for the congregation throughout that process. You will begin receiving information about what that involves in a timely way. Suffice it to say, there will be ample opportunity for input and information.

The long 'goodbye' process is designed to help the congregation undergo a search process sooner rather than later, thus minimizing the length of an interim period. The success of this year, that search process and a new pastor will be rooted in all of us doing our best in our roles here at ORUCC. I commit myself to full hearted ministry and appropriate distance from the search process. I commit myself to supporting our leaders and my amazing staff colleagues as we all make sense of the changes we expect and the changes that surprise us.

Finally, I know that I have had some time to make and process this decision, and that for you it is new and for most of you, probably surprising. I am also grateful that we will have time together for the necessary cycle of emotions and conversation. Today is just the beginning.

I love this congregation. I love we are, and I love who I am in your midst. And I give thanks to God for the way I feel her presence in our ministry together.

Tammy's Time

I finished reading the book *Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for Ordinary Christians* by John Paul Lederach a couple of months ago but I continue to go back to read parts of it over again, hoping the teachings and ideas will sink deep into my mind and heart. I hope to offer it some day as a small group study for anyone interested. I also am using it to write curriculum for our middle school youth.

One idea the author puts forth that I find very challenging is “Our capacity to listen to God is only as great as our capacity to listen to each other when we are in conflict...We test our real capability to listen, not when it is easy, but when it is most difficult.” Wow!! What do you think of this? How well do we listen to someone we disagree with or with whom we are in conflict?

The author shares from his wealth of experience and is based on his work in 25 countries across five continents. Literally he has gone around the world to assist people in conflict transformation. In the Forward of the book, Bill and Lynne Hybels, cofounders of Willow Creek Community Church share this: “Though this book is biblically grounded and thoroughly practical, it is not safe. It will mess with your life. Not because you’ll be called to travel the world and sit with enemies like John Paul Lederach does. You may be called to do that, but that’s not the scary part. What’s scary is that you’ll have to face your own warring heart, your own divisive attitudes and behaviors, your own unreconciled relationships...and this is painful to face. But it’s pain that leads to healing and transformation. Lederach invites us to ‘turn our faces toward God and toward each other,’ and then teaches us how to do that.”

Lederach believes that the essence of the Gospel is the call to reconciliation and believes that Jesus is the ultimate model of reconciliation, the who notices and stays and befriends. Through Jesus, we see that God’s reconciling love is made present. Jesus dared to believe that it is possible to reconcile all things.

What are your thoughts? Do you believe that the Gospel calls us to seek reconciliation with those we struggle with? Do we know how to walk the pathway of reconciliation? Maybe we can learn together.



The Green Corner—Care of Creation:

Keeping your carbon footprint to a minimum means putting less carbon into the atmosphere, which equals lowering your contribution to global warming.

Here’s one way you can help: If you order from Amazon Prime and choose **free no rush shipping** (5 business days) or **free standard shipping** (3-5 business days) you will leave a carbon footprint that is smaller than if you drove to the store to purchase the item.

But if you opt for free two day shipping your carbon footprint will actually be greater than if you had driven to the store yourself. Here’s why: Your item gets picked off the shelf in the warehouse and placed on an airplane to quickly take it across the country. Then it’s put on a truck -- but because you selected the quicker shipping option, it’s likely to be put on a truck that’s only half-full in order to meet the deadline, and half-filled trucks mean more gas consumption for delivery vehicles. So if you’re not in dire need of a two day delivery, consider one of the other options. Small changes like this can make a big difference, so spread the word!

Compassion offering for February will be Thea's Table:

The offering will benefit Thea's Table, a program of the Food For Thought Initiative that provides weekend food for homeless families with elementary school children. Families are referred to Thea's Table by school social workers. Every Thursday, each participating family receives shelf-stable food for 6 meals, two snacks and one treat.

Thea's Table is named in honor of 94 year-old Thea Aschkenase, who as a teenager survived imprisonment at Auschwitz concentration camp. She never forgot what it was like to be starving and has worked tirelessly throughout her life to reduce food insecurity for school children. Her daughter Lea Aschkenase is the founder of Food for Thought, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization founded to help children succeed and learn in school by helping reduce hunger.

How will your donation be used?

Thea's Table is currently funded by a grant from the Goodman Foundation to serve 30 families per week. There are currently over 700 children in the Madison school district who are classified as homeless. Contributions from ORUCC will provide the means to expand this program to serve more children.

For credit on your church statement, on your check write the ministry in the memo line. While this will not count toward your annual pledge, we will acknowledge the contribution on your statement.

Prayers of Concern:

For the family of Marilyn Arnold, who passed away on Monday, January 29. We pray for her husband Tom, and sons David & Doug.

For Stan Heffernan and his extended family after the passing of his daughter, Kristine McGrew.

For Arline Grandberg who has been battling the flu for a month, who has ongoing health challenges with cancer and heart disease.

For Kristin Martin who is undergoing radiation treatment for breast cancer.

For Christine Pasinski Thomas who was hospitalized in Marshfield with an infection in the spine.

For the family of Jackie Eveland Psyck, whose mother, Marilyn died this morning (Feb 7) surrounded by her children.

For Paul Vash's sister who is experiencing difficulties with her pregnancy.

For Marcia & Andrew Beckett's 3 yr. old niece Gloria who is undergoing intensive chemo for leukemia this month.

For Helene Nelson's cousin Bill who is getting ready to move to a rehab hospital after three weeks in critical care.

Prayers of Joy:

For the 17 of our leaders who participated in a Leadership Retreat at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake, WI, last weekend.

For last Sunday's Annual Meeting where budgets were approved, new leaders were elected, and ministries were celebrated.

For successful knee surgery for Liz Feagles. We pray for her long recovery process.

For successful brain surgery for Todd Lillethun, son of Donna & John Lillethun. He will also need therapy to recover his speech and reading.

For the 19+ years of pastoral ministry of ORUCC's senior pastor Winton Boyd, who announced he will be stepping away from his position as Senior Pastor at the end of 2018.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Members of Orchard Ridge UCC are invited to apply for college scholarships for 2018-2019 from the Frank E. Page Scholarship Fund. Applicants should be planning to begin or continue education at any accredited 2- or 4-year college or university, and should have a record of academic achievement, service to church and community, and demonstrated financial need. The application deadline is February 15, 2018; contact scholarships@firstcongmadison.org for an electronic application and information. Questions? Contact Peter Fabian, 236-9983, fabian@edgewood.edu.

Life Line Screening, community-based preventive health screenings will be back at ORUCC March 19th:

Life Line Screening will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ on 3/19/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

Panera Eat Out—February 27, 2018:

Please help our youth get to Greensboro, North Carolina for their mission trip this summer by eating at Panera (Mineral Point Road) on **Tuesday, February 27 between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

You need to show a flyer when you make your order and those flyers are on the table in the Crossroads. Or you can show an electronic version of the flyer and you can access that via the All Church Email.

Hope to see you at Panera!

Women's Book Group:

On Thursday, March 1, Women's Book Group will meet in the Alfred Swan Room, adjacent to Friendship Hall, from 1:30-3:30. We will discuss "LaRose" by Louise Erdrich.

LaROSE is a contemporary novel featuring two families related by blood who live on either side of a boundary between a reservation and U.S. land. At the very beginning of this novel there's a tragedy. It involves both families and the title character named LaRose, along with a culturally traditional way in which an attempt is made to assuage deep grief. There's the great blessing of a happy community at the end. Erdrich is well-qualified to create this story, as critics generally consider her to be one of the outstanding living American writers. Erdrich's mother was an Ojibwe woman, and her father had a German heritage.

All women who like to read and discuss books are welcome.

OVER 55:

The next meeting of OVER 55 will be held on Tuesday, February 13th. Our speakers will be Alison Prange, the Executive Director of the Friends of the Zoo, and Nikki Dario who is head of education for the zoo. I imagine that almost everyone has had contact with the zoo, either through their own children or grandchildren. There have been many changes over the years and

we will hear about them. It should prove to be an interesting program. As usual, we gather at 11:30 and plan to eat at 11:45. The program will follow. We welcome everyone and encourage newcomers to attend.

Progressive Christianity Discussion Group:

We meet the second Wednesday of the month, next session February 14 at the church 11 a.m. to 12:00 pm. Bringing a bag lunch is optional. We are reading Marcus Borg's book Convictions. Questions contact Ken Pennings at ken@orucc.org.

Women's Breakfast:

We meet at the Pancake Café at 728 S. Gammon Rd. (near Watts Rd) at 8:30 on the first Friday of the month. This is an informal gathering to chat on many subjects and interests. Join Jeanne Garnett and others for a delicious breakfast and great conversation.

Many men have also been joining in at their "guys" table and are welcome as well.

ORUCC Men's Group:

The Orchard Ridge UCC men's group meets in the Oscar Romero Gathering Room on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:15 pm. FMI— contact Dave Myers at 274-0381 or 547_5698@msn.com.

Weekly Meditation Group:

Thursday mornings, from 8:30 to 9:30 am, for a shared time of silent meditation and reflections on our spiritual journeys. Contact Dave Myers at 274-0381 or 47_5698@msn.com or Helene Nelson 259-2546 or helenemargaret@gmail.com for more information.

Knitting & Crafts Group:

The group will meet on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 pm at the church. All are welcome to bring some handwork and join us! Questions, please call Sandra Dyar at 271-2409. **NOTE:** As you plan your knitting and crocheting

projects that include prayer shawls, please plan most of your shawls to be rectangles. Think in terms of 16 to 20 inches wide and 60 to 72 inches long. These are the most used shawls and would be most helpful.

Movie Group to discuss Oscar nominations Friday, February 16th :

This month's Movie Group gathering at 7 p.m. Friday, February 16th will feature discussion about the 2017 Academy Award nominations including some films that were overlooked. Your opinions will be appreciated.

Bruce and Cherie Olsen will provide a dessert, Jack and Jan Christian will facilitate our discussion.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Steve Sheets, im1042@tds.net, or 845-5667.



Coffee Fund for Sunday Mornings and all Other Church Events:

Many of us enjoy a good cup of Fair Trade coffee after worship on Sunday mornings. If you can help out by donating to the coffee fund, that would be appreciated.

Convenient Option to Pay Your Operating Pledge Monthly:

No more checks to write, or worries if you paid each month, and no more relying on snail mail delivery. A simplified option to pay your operating pledge on a monthly basis, by auto deduction from your bank account. Please contact Debbie at the church office 271-7212 for the auto deduction form, or for more information. Deductions are taken out the 15th of each month.

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

1501 Gilbert Road
Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 608-271-7212
Fax: 608-271-7265

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN AND AFFIRMING OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, CULTURE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER EXPRESSION OR IDENTITY, AND ECONOMIC STATUS. OUR CHURCH IS A SAFE SANCTUARY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.orucc.org



Heart Room - New Affordable Housing Initiative

“Be the Church” – Pledge to Heart Room and Give Kids a Home! Did you get a new coffee mug at Marcia Sheets’ funeral? As husband Steve explained, this gift reminds us of the “mission statement” of the United Church of Christ. It reads: “BE THE CHURCH. Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.”

At ORUCC, we are committed to BE THE CHURCH. Heart Room is a new opportunity for us to live our faith together as a church. Heart Room will help very young children get off to a good start in life – providing children and their families with stable housing and a pathway to long term well-being. Please prayerfully consider a pledge to Heart Room. Put your pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by March 4.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Ushers

Feb 11 John Blanchard,
Joyce Binder, Jim Treichel

Feb 14-Ash Wed

Bob & Carol Prugh

Feb 18 Carolyn Carlson,
Bob & Carol Prugh

Feb 25 Carolyn Carlson,
Phil Judy Winkel

Mar 4 Jerry Nelson,
Larry & Sharon Goss

Welcomers

Feb 11 Charlene Gallagher,
Ruthanne Landsness, Mary
Loving

Feb 18 Jack Schairer,
Dick & Lois Rossmiller

Feb 25 Glenn Schaeffer,
Leah Narans, Helen Horn

Mar 4 Barb McLeod,
Bob & Carol Prugh

Sound

Feb 11 Ken Psyck

Feb 14-Ash Wed
Paul Hedges

Feb 18 Andrew Beckett

Feb 25 Jarrett Gersten

Mar 4 Chuck Kaspar

Coffee

Feb 11 Annette & Brian
Porter

Feb 18 Marty Bero,
Jerry Hagen

Feb 25 Brian Rachael
Lancor

Mar 4 Jerry Hagen,
Randi Smith

Financial Secretary

Feb 11 Gene Dyar

Feb 18 Marge Wennen

Feb 25 Peter Hoff

Mar 4 Mary Bucknell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Wednesday 7	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 8	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
	7:00 p.m.	Care of Creation Film Fest
Sunday 11	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 12	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men’s Group
Tuesday 13	11:30 a.m.	OVER 55
Wednesday 14	11:00 a.m.	Progressive Christianity Group
	5:30 p.m.	Labyrinth Walk
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday 15	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 18	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 19	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday 21	7:00 p.m.	ORUCC Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 22	8:30 a.m.	Meditation & Spirituality Discussion
Sunday 25	9:00 a.m.	Java & Jesus
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday 26	7:00 p.m.	Financial Peace University
	7:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 p.m.	ORUCC Men’s Group